

What a reunion, what a weekend, what a wonderful time was had by all who lasted the course on the BH Reunion. It was brilliant, not quite eclipsing our memorial visit to the Barton Hall site the previous year.

Lots of stories were being regurgitated, jokes being retold and eagerly and fondly acknowledged which is a regular constant, as advancing age creates the natural memory block as to what actually was said or done at previous encounters/reunions.

The canal barge trip was a fantastic "chilling out" experience. Cameras were a-clicking, duckling wardens were a-shooing and Kate Winslet wannabes were in good order at the prow. We moved at a sedate four knots (1 kts = 1.15077945 mph) taking us all to the lovely historic town of Garstang where the order of the day was to get fuelled up and to recharge the batteries for the idyllic return.

Throughout the trip we all were thoroughly policed by the magnificent four, Kath, Tass, Val and Pam who even had time to conduct a floating quiz in which yours truly was well kipped by the mean actions of deceit, known to all except me. The actions have most probably ruined my ego, self-confidence and left me a shell of the former person I once was, shame on you all, but a good idea well conceived and perfectly executed well done I never saw it coming!! ! However, the consolation prize T-Shirt went some way towards addressing the balance, I might find it difficult to wear in the Fatherland -I quote; "You came to bomb us. – We shot you down." The bottom lip's stopped trembling now, although I am still undergoing specialist counseling !! ! !

On due arrival back at the Stalag Luft Lindum, it was announced by our senior escape officer (Tass) that two of our colleagues had successfully tunneled out of Tom, Dick or Harry to freedom. Evidently the Red Cross parcels that the Lindum supplied were of poor quality so they took the canal trip as a diversion and bolted for freedom. We are still awaiting the coveted post card that will announce a successful homerun!

Before dinner, many of us took part in the George & Dragon fancy dress competition judged by Captain Gordon and ably assisted by that well known nudger and nudeller Pam, Gordon was maybe made aware of the dress specifications (Haig ,Grouse and Bells) so he conducted his duties impeccably and picked the winners well. Hic! Hic! Hic!

BEST GEORGE = . KEN THE COTTON

BEST DRAGON = CHRISTINE 'THE LONG SUFFERING' GARBUTT

Sadly the kite flying competition had to be postponed; volcanic ash, low cloud, unfavorable flying conditions, wet sand, late flight plan submissions and a favorable position near to the bar being a better attraction. The Senior kite Adjudicator Grant Macintosh had to reluctantly make the heart wrenching decision to postpone this international event till next year!

At Saturday dinner the ranks were swelled by a number of Bartonians who joined us for further enjoyable festivities, the quiz, the raffle and much more military banter, Tete a Tetes were enjoyed by all.

Sunday morning, again, was graced by walking excursions and friendly chats culminating with the famous bring and buy stall. All these efforts, helped to swell our coffers to assist in subsidising future Barton Hall events as they unfold.

A big thank you to all who organized, brought and bought! You are a wonderful bunch of people and I feel honored to be part of such accommodating people, kindness personified.

Eventually all good things come to an end, memories withstanding of the weekend will stay forever and friendships forever cemented. God Bless you all for participating in making it a wonderful weekend for all.

STOP PRESS: next year's dates are Friday 6th,7th,May 2011The format will be just a little different as the Hotel are organising a Race Day for us on Saturday which includes a Champagne Buffet Lunch. Here is the programme (subject to minor changes perhaps)

FRIDAY -DINNER

SAT BREAKFAST: CHAMPAGNE BUFFET LUNCH AND AN AFTERNOON AT THE RACES \*  
DINNER

(if other BH guests wish to join us for the race event and dinner a £15 supplement per person for each event is payable)

SUNDAY B/FAST IS INCLUDED (if lunch is required a £15 additional supplement pp will be payable)

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THE PRICE FOR THE WHOLE REUNION WEEKEND is £122 pp plus SEA VIEW SUPPLEMENTS IF REQUIRED

Paul managed to negotiate a special price to include the race activity.

There will be no inclusive lunch on the Sunday as we are having lunch on Saturday instead.

DON'T FORGET TO WATCH PAUL AUSTIN ON 'DEAL OR NO DEAL' IN July /AUGUST 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The above newsletter was sent to me by Peter Garbutt who was kind enough to "volunteer" for this task. I think it is always good to have a different take on things and I think he has done a sterling job. The good thing about a written diatribe is that you can speed read it and cut to the chase instead of falling asleep half way through (see photograph of Paul falling asleep on my sword waiting his turn to speak - CLASSIC!) Thanks again Peter, you are so good at this you could have this job for life.

Don't forget, as Sunday Lunch will not be included, due to the champagne lunch, some of us will be staying on and booking Sunday lunch at an extra cost so if you want to join us make sure you mention this when you book or confirm you booking.. See you all next year and don't forget, new people are always very, very welcome. Feel free to call me or email me if you have any questions about the reunion.